

very interesting results. I should observe that the hooks situated near the base of the wings had not previously attracted my notice, nor do I find any account of them in any of the works, such as those of Dufour or Wesmael, that I have consulted. It is well known that amongst the Hymenoptera are to be found groups which differ greatly in their power of flight: perhaps no order presents greater variation; every degree of difference is to be found between the rapid *Xylocopæ* and the lumbering and apparently helpless attempts at flight observable in sawflies, belonging to the genus *Dasytheus*. It will be obvious to every one that insects of such rapid flight as *Xylocopa* would require a stronger and more secure fastening or attachment of the wings than such insects as *Dasytheus*, which are amongst the weakest-, worst-flying insects in the entire order; and such is apparently the case. The very slight examination which I have been able to make gives the following results:—In *Xylocopa latipes* I detect 38 hooks; in species of *Dasytheus*, 7–8 and 10; in the Ichneumonidæ the numbers are usually (apparently small) 8–10, 12, &c.; but as yet I have not had an opportunity of paying sufficient attention to this very interesting subject.”

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The Fabricius Sea Bull-Head (*Acanthocottus Groenlandicus*).

By Sir JOHN RICHARDSON, M.D.

In the third edition of Yarrell's 'British Fishes,' recently published, mention is made of the discovery, in Dingle Harbour, of an example of this fish. A second specimen was taken, two years ago, in the basin of the South Esk, at Montrose, from a salmon-net, by William Beattie, Esq. It may therefore be considered to be more than an accidental visitant to our coast.

URIËCHIS MICROLEPIDOTUS.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

Cotton Hall, Norwich, March 14, 1860.

GENTLEMEN,—I request permission to correct a slight error in the account of the African snake (*Uriëchis microlepidotus*) recently presented by me to the British Museum, and described by Dr. A. Günther in your last Number.

The snake was not received by me from Algoa Bay, as stated in the above article, but from D'Urban, Port Natal, having been sent to me by Mr. Thomas Ayres, a very intelligent naturalist of that place, on whose farm the snake was ploughed up, together with the eggs which were sent with it.

I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.,

JOHN HENRY GURNEY.